GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1957
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2007
ACQUIRING LAND IN BRAZIL FOR SUGARCANE PRODCUTION
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil companies are interested in acquiring land in Brazil for sugarcane production;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that England based D.I., O.I.L.S., P.L.C. (the biggest Jatropha producing company) have expressed its desire to acquire 3.5. lakh hectare of land in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian companies have rejected the possibilities of ethanol production within the country; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b) An Industry Task Force comprising three Oil PSUs viz., BPCL, IOCL & HPCL had commissioned a Feasibility Study. The Study indicated that Ethanol investments in Brazil are feasible, attractive and highly strategic for the Indian Oil Industry. The Industry Task Force visited Brazil during the last week of August, 2007 for carrying out a detailed study for ascertaining suitable local partners for forming a joint venture in Brazil. The next phase of the project involving identification of suitable local partners for investing in Brazil is in progress.

(c) & (d) Government is not aware about these.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.